

STATE OF NEW YORK

5462--B

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

February 17, 2021

Introduced by M. of A. KELLES -- read once and referred to the Committee on Agriculture -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee -- again reported from said committee with amendments, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the agriculture and markets law, in relation to establishing a farm-to-school task force; and to amend the education law, in relation to requiring all public schools to provide fresh foods to students in a manner that supports local agriculture and increases market opportunities for farmers from under-represented communities

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Subdivision 5-b of section 16 of the agriculture and
2 markets law is amended by adding a new paragraph (d) to read as follows:

3 (d) Establish a task force to study and make recommendations on how to
4 provide fresh foods in all school districts in the state, while support-
5 ing New York local agriculture, and increasing market opportunities for
6 farmers from under-represented communities, including but not limited to
7 farmers who are black, indigenous, and people of color. Such task force
8 shall be composed of nine members who shall possess expertise in issues
9 relating to the work of the task force. Two members shall be appointed
10 by the governor, two members shall be appointed by the speaker of the
11 assembly, two members shall be appointed by the temporary president of
12 the senate, one member shall be appointed by the minority leader of the
13 assembly, one member shall be appointed by the minority leader of the
14 senate and one member shall be the commissioner or his or her designee.
15 The commissioner or his or her designee shall serve as chairperson of
16 the task force. Members of the task force shall be appointed no later
17 than one hundred twenty days after the effective date of this paragraph.
18 Vacancies shall be filled within thirty days in the same manner provided
19 for original appointments. No later than one year after all initial

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 appointments have been made the task force shall make a report to the
2 governor, the legislature and the commissioner of education of its find-
3 ings, conclusions and recommendations.

4 § 2. Subdivision 31 of section 305 of the education law, as added by
5 chapter 2 of the laws of 2001, is amended to read as follows:

6 31. The commissioner shall cooperate with the commissioner of agricul-
7 ture and markets in establishing a farm-to-school program and coordinat-
8 ing New York Harvest For New York Kids Week as described in subdivision
9 five-b of section sixteen of the agriculture and markets law. The
10 commissioner's responsibilities shall include, but not be limited to,
11 developing a program based on the findings of the task force established
12 pursuant to paragraph (d) of subdivision five-b of section sixteen of
13 the agriculture and markets law, to require all school districts in the
14 state to provide fresh foods to students in a manner that supports New
15 York local agriculture while increasing market opportunities for farmers
16 from under-represented communities, compiling information for the
17 department of agriculture and markets from school districts and other
18 educational institutions under the department's jurisdiction interested
19 in purchasing New York farm products and disseminating to those
20 districts and institutions information from the department of agricul-
21 ture and markets about the availability of New York farm products, and
22 contact information for farmers and other businesses marketing such
23 products. The commissioner shall report to the legislature about the
24 need for changes in law to facilitate the purchase of such products by
25 schools and other institutions.

26 § 3. This act shall take effect on the first of January next succeed-
27 ing the date on which it shall have become a law.